four. This enumeration does not include nests found containing young, several of which I examined, but in no one instance did I see less than two. There is no difference, on the average, in the size of sets between the years 1885 and 1887.

The winter and spring of 1884–85 were unusually cold. Ice an eighth of an inch thick formed repeatedly in the valley, and the mountains were as often snow-capped. The winter and spring of 1885–86 were very mild, but more especially were those of 1886–87. Unfortunately I cannot give the temperature, but the appended table shows the extent of the rainfall :—

Year.	*Jan.*	*Feb.*	*March.*	*April.*	*May.*	*June.*
1885	0.00	0.42	0.40	0.00	0.23	0.13
1886	1.61	0.35	0.87	0.06	0.00	0.00
1887	0.00	0.85	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.26

Dried grass usually is a staple article with Palmer's Thrashers for nest lining. A nest last year lined with feathers and grass was the first deviation I had ever seen from it, but this year nothing seemed to go amiss for that purpose. Those nesting in the vicinity of a slaughter-house frequently economized on grass by using about one half pig bristles. In a nest of this build I also saw a piece of baling rope that had been skilfully worked in. I saw several that were lined with grass and horsehair, also several that were lined with grass and feathers. The *H. bendirei* by no means confine themselves to grass for nest lining, as is abundantly evidenced by my oölogical notes.—HERBERT BROWN, *Tucson, Arizona.*

Feeding Habits of Sitta canadensis.—On the 28th of October last in the Northern Adirondacks I noticed that the Red-bellied Nuthatches seemed to be feeding exclusively on the seeds of the black spruce. After that I watched them for a number of days, and although they were abundant, I did not see them feeding on anything else. Alighting on a bunch of cones at the extremity of a bough, the Nuthatch would insert its bill between the scales of a cone and draw out a seed. Then flying to a horizontal bough near by it would detach the wing which adheres to each seed, letting it fall to the ground, swallow the seed, and fly back for another. Frequently a good many trips would be made between the same bunch of cones and the same bough where the wing was separated from the seed.

The Red-bellied Nuthatches were very abundant — much more so than the White-bellied — and it was an interesting sight to watch them feeding in this way. One specimen, killed while feeding, contained no food but the seeds of the spruce. I did not observe the White-bellied Nuthatch make use of this supply of food. — C. K. AVERILL, JR., *Bridgeport, Conn.*

Spotted Eggs of Parus gambeli. — In the spring of 1882, when living at Gold Run, in the Belt Mountains, I noticed a pair of Mountain Chickadees flitting about a knot-hole some fifteen feet up in a cotton-wood tree.

Thinking the birds might have selected the place for their nesting I visited it several times, usually finding at least one of the birds about, and sometimes getting within arm's length of both of them. On June 23, just after a blustering snowstorm, I went to the place and found the upper part of the knot-hole drifted in with snow, and the birds absent. Cutting open the hole, which had evidently been enlarged somewhat by one of the smaller Woodpeckers, and was about ten inches deep, there lay six eggs on a thin matting of rabbit's hair. The eggs are white, all distinctly marked with pale reddish brown spots, quite numerous and more or less confluent about the larger end, and gradually diminishing in numbers toward the smaller. The largest egg measures 17.5 × 12. mm., the smallest 16. × 12. mm. On comparison with four eggs of *P. atricapillus septentrionalis*, obtained on the North Fork of the Musselshell River, they prove considerably more elongated, with slightly rounder ends and larger, much paler, spots. The largest egg of the last-mentioned bird is 16.5 × 12.5 mm., the smallest 15.5 × 12.5 mm. — R. S. WILLIAMS, *Great Falls, Montana.*

What Birds indicate Proximity to Water, and at what Distance? — Mr. William Lloyd, in his explorations in the arid region of Western Texas, has made some highly important observations, the results of which cannot fail to be of the utmost value to travellers on our southwestern plains, where water is scarce and difficult to find. Mr. Lloyd writes: "During the past summer, I have been investigating an important question which occurred to me about four years ago, namely, What birds indicate the presence of water in their neighborhood? Of course any statement on the subject should be proved by a number of facts, based on experiments in different localities. Three times this summer I have camped from simply seeing certain birds, and on hunting for water have found it in each case. As certainties I can give the following species, with the greatest distance at which each occurs from water.

Cardinal	1 mile.
Warblers (including Chat)	1 mile.
Vireos	2 miles.
Mockingbirds	2½ to 3½ miles.
Blue Grosbeak	" "
Orchard Oriole	3 miles.
Bullock's Oriole.	3 miles.
Nonpareil	3 miles.
Carolina Dove	3 to 5 miles.
Black-capped Titmouse.	4 miles.
Texas Cardinal.	6 miles.

This only applies to summer, and will not hold in winter or during migrations. I have been constructing this list since the summer of 1883; and also have particularly noted what birds drank, and how often, in Dec.-Jan., 1884-1885; Nov.-Dec., 1885; and Jan., 1886." — C. HART MERRIAM, *Washington, D. C.*